



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Community Planning and Physical Services Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 407
Thursday, September 13, 2018, 6:00 PM

Minutes

In attendance: Ben Wenograd (Chair), Shari Cantor (via phone), Chris Barnes, Matt Hart, John Phillips, Rick DiBella, Todd Dumais, Mark McGovern, and members of the public.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Wenograd called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. There were introductions.
2. Communications

- a. Mr. Robert Teller addressed the committee regarding his concerns about trees throughout town, especially near Mountain Rd. He provided various news clippings/articles and asked the committee about the discrepancy with town and state regulations on trees. He would like the town to be more proactive as it relates to the trees and appreciates the work DPW does.

Mr. Phillips and Mr. DiBella responded to Mr. Tellars' valid concerns. The tree language and laws in the state and region date back many years. The Town does not have "tree experts" but does the best it can do, considering workload and staffing. The department works mainly on complaints received. 90% of (canopy) trees are on private property and the Town does not have jurisdiction. The Town does have a working relationship with Eversource, which has the authority on powerline/utility tree falls. On average, there are 35-40 risk avoidance letters a year sent to homeowners. Residents are encouraged to report issues via general 'report a problem' link on the website.

- b. July 18, 2018 Minutes were received.

3. Staff Reports

- a. Public Works – Mr. Phillips provided this update to the committee. The department is handling general maintenance this time of year. The food waste project, which has been in pilot, has been well received. The department continues to work with the schools, through Tom Moore, to streamline the process and are working on a standardized manual (guidelines, roles, and responsibilities) which will be posted on the website and in the schools.

Staff continues to work on a few options related to the trash proposal. There will be an update, most likely, at the next meeting.

The new trash and recycle bins will be deployed throughout Town as soon as they are available. The department, in conjunction with Leisure Services, recently unveiled the bins at Vanderbilt Park.

- b. Community Development – Mr. Dumais and Mr. McGovern provided the community development updates. Last year, the Town submitted a grant application for a bicycle connectivity plan. This week, staff received notice that the \$103,000 grant had been awarded to the Town. The grant will fund the installation of bike signage and pavement markings in accordance with the Bicycle Facilities Plan.

Staff has requested a special CPPS meeting to discuss the POCD which is set to expire early next year. The full council is invited to attend the kickoff meeting.

There has been progress made on Cadwell Street. Staff continues to work on options and strategies for next year. DPW will continue the snow and trash service this year. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. McGovern also updated the committee on the various construction projects throughout Town, including Park Road/84 and the milling and paving on Quaker and other areas.

The Town has also been awarded a \$1.5 million grant by CRCOG for work on New Park Ave.

4. Business Items

- a. Tree Maintenance Program – This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.
- b. Resolution Authorizing Execution of Supplemental Applications for Bridge Projects (Braeburn and N. Main)- The Town was awarded grants through the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program to rehabilitate the Braeburn Culvert and the North Main Street Bridge. These two projects were placed on hold by the State and need to be reaffirmed in order to receive the funds. The timing for the projects is spring. Braeburn will be completed in one construction season and N. Main will be a longer duration. These resolutions will be presented at the September 25th Town Council meeting.
- c. Advertising Signage in Town Parks-Mr. Hart and Mr. Dumais updated the committee on this item. Staff continues to work on this project with league participation. In an effort to allow youth sports leagues to raise funds to benefit their programs, the Town is considering ways to approve temporary advertising in parks. In order to allow temporary signage, there needed to be changes made to the current zoning ordinance. Staff prepared a draft ordinance for committee review which includes signage through Leisure Services. The draft ordinance does not include any schools, only municipal parks. The draft ordinance will also be presented at the next Human Services committee meeting.

Staff will meet with leagues again before any hearing and will notify residents that may be affected. Staff will keep the committee posted.

5. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include alternatives to SMART, continuing the discussion on efficiency units, and a Cadwell Street update.

6. Adjournment – 7:02 pm